

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Night: May 12, 2018 — 8pm



Fresh Ink Theatre Presents

Heritage Hill Naturals

A WORLD PREMIERE

Written by Francisca Da Silveira, Directed by Phaedra Michelle Scott

May 11-26, 2018 | The Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts

(Boston, MA) [Fresh Ink Theatre](http://freshinktheatre.org) continues its 2017-2018 season with the world premiere of *Heritage Hill Naturals* by Francisca Da Silveira. Performances begin Friday, May 11, 2018 and continue through May 26, 2018 at the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts.

In an effort to avoid confronting her declining mental health, recent college graduate Lucilia volunteers a month of free labor to an organic farm in rural Georgia. There, she encounters ignorance bordering on racism, religious fanaticism, and too healthy eating habits that force her to question whether escaping into a world of green living was really an escape at all.

Playwright Francisca Da Silveira identifies closely with the play's protagonist. "I find myself both utterly fascinated and utterly disturbed by memes, gifs, and websites like BuzzFeed, whose target market is primarily the millennial generation. Right before I started working on *Heritage* in 2015, you could probably describe me as the quintessential millennial: just finished college, aimless, trying to figure out the *real world* and failing spectacularly. My solution was to run off to Florida to work at an organic farm through an organization called WWOOF (Willing Workers on Organic Farms) and to prolong the figuring-it-out stage as long as possible. It was during this month of working 45-hour weeks doing physical labor that I came to the realization that I wasn't escaping responsibility but rather myself and the intense wave of anxiety and depression that had begun bubbling up without the stability of an academic institution to distract me from it. At first, I was disillusioned by the fact that at every turn, social media was both ridiculing and perpetuating the idea of anxiety and depression as a trend rather than a serious mental health issue that millennials in particular suffer from. Returning from Florida, that disillusionment quickly turned to frustration as I struggled to accept the fact that seeking professional help was going to be necessary if I wanted to live a healthy and happy life. I wrote *Heritage* during that time of struggle, of trying to navigate my mental health as a young female of color who had lived her entire life steeling, swallowing, pushing and hiding. This play is a visibility play. It's for all the young females of color who are also steeling, swallowing, pushing and hiding. A meme is not enough. A gif is

not enough. Knowing which Black Panther character you are based on your favorite kind of cheese is not enough. Your mental health is not a trend.”

Director Phaedra Scott also added, “I’m enamored by the questions the play poses: How do we forge our own identity? Who decides when we need help? I’m attracted to the themes of isolation when surrounded by people, media and work. Likewise, I’m interested in exploring the concept of hiding our underbelly in order to save ourselves, and the ramifications and benefits of thinking: Me First.”

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE AND TICKETS

Performances

May 11-26, 2018

Wednesdays and Thursdays 7:30pm, Fridays and Saturdays 8:00pm

Preview May 11 at 8:00pm

Industry Night May 22 at 7:30pm

Matinee May 19 at 3:00pm

PRESS NIGHT May 12 at 8:00pm

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Single tickets are \$25

Website: <https://www.bostontheatrescene.com/season/Heritage-Hill-Naturals/>

Box Office: Calderwood Pavilion Box Office, 527 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Francisca Da Silveira (playwright) is a Boston native and playwright who graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with a double degree in Dramatic Writing and History. She has had admin and literary roles at Target Margin Theater (NYC), The Russian Arts Theater and Studio (NYC), The Amoralists (NYC), and TC Squared (BOS). In 2015-2016, she served as the Education Associate at Company One Theatre (BOS) working with their teen apprentices. She is currently the Literary Manager with Company One. Fran's writing is greatly inspired and influenced by Anton Chekhov and Alan Bennett. She's had 10 minute plays performed as part of Theatre503's Rapid Write Response in 2014 (LONDON) and TCSquared Theatre Company's Playwright's Lab Showcase in 2016/2017 (BOS). Aside from writing plays, Fran is a home baker with an obsession with Mary Berry.

Phaedra Michelle Scott (Director) is a Boston based director, dramaturg and writer. Phaedra has been a part of the artistic departments of Cleveland Play House, Huntington Theatre Company and Company One Theatre. Directing credits include: *She: A Choreoplay* (HERE, NYC), *I Don't Know* (Company One), *Every 28 Hours* (Company One/MFA). Regionally she has assistant directed *Skeleton Crew*, *The Who and the What*, *Bedroom Farce* (Huntington Theatre Company). Dramaturgy credits include *Dear* (MCC Theatre), *Pearl's in The House* (Utah Shakespeare Festival), *And Moira Spins* (Huntington Theatre Company), *Homecoming Queen* (New Harmony Project), *How Soft the Lining* (Bad Habit Productions), *Jass* (New Harmony Project), *Can You Forgive Her?* (Huntington Theatre Company). She is the recipient of the Bly Creative Capacity Grant, the Comegys Bight Fellowship and the Frederick Douglass Fellowship, and is a Boston Project playwright with SpeakEasy Stage. www.phaedrascott.com

For a full cast and production team listing, please visit: <http://freshinktheatre.org/heritage-hill-naturals/>

ABOUT FRESH INK:

Fresh Ink Theatre provides an avenue for the development of new work on the Boston small theatre scene in a collaborative, playwright-centered manner. The company was born in the summer of 2011 and debuted at the Factory Theatre the following December with the nearly sold-out run of *Priscilla Dreams the Answer* by Walt McGough. Fresh Ink's unique submission model and development process have led to successful runs of plays by local playwrights including Laura Neill, MJ Halberstadt, Ginger Lazarus, Walt McGough, Patrick Gabridge, and many more. Fresh Ink also created the Ink Spot staged reading series as another avenue to showcase new work in process, as well as the annual Mad Dash 24-hour play festival, which brings together theatre artists from across Boston to create eight new plays in a single day. Now in its seventh season, Fresh Ink Theatre is a continuing part of the BCA's Performing Arts Residency Program.

Fresh Ink Theatre Company is committed to developing new work with emerging theatre artists in the New England area. We seek to empower writers with the tools to craft plays that showcase their creative vision, and we challenge the Boston community to engage in the evolution of new work as it transforms from first draft to first production, and beyond. We value artistic excellence, institutional transparency, community involvement and ongoing collaboration.

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FRESH INK IS:

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